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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

# International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

## Note by the Secretary-General

The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/99 of 16 December 1991, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session a report on the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. The Secretary-General hereby transmits to the Assembly the report prepared by the Institute.

* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

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ANNEX

Report of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

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# I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 46/99 of 16 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-eighth session a report on the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

2. In that resolution, the General Assembly, inter alia, noted with appreciation that the Institute was maintaining its dual approach as both an agent for sensitization on the role of women in the mainstream of development and as a centre for specialized research, training and information, particularly in new areas of interest affecting women and development; it commended the Institute for its continued efforts in interlinking closely its research and training activities, especially in the field of enhanced statistics on women, with special focus on the informal sector, environment and communication; it requested the Institute to strengthen its activities related to the question of the undervaluation of women, both urban and rural, in economic activities, the monitoring, evaluation and impact analysis of projects and programmes concerning women and development and the feedback of results into the operation system; and it also requested the Institute to continue to strengthen its collaboration with institutions and organizations of the United Nations system, particularly those involved with women and development issues, and with research and training centres and institutes at the international, regional and national levels.

3. Since the previous report of INSTRAW to the General Assembly (A/46/325), the Institute has made every effort to sharpen its focus and to concentrate on those problems which constitute barriers to improving the condition and status of women and impede overall development and progress.

4. Through its programme of activities and through research, training and information activities on issues affecting women and development, the Institute maintains and affirms its catalytic and advocatory role in facilitating the inclusion of women as partners in development.

# II. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE INSTITUTE FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

5. Global development as it has evolved through the 1970s, 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s has led to increasing worldwide poverty and to an accentuation of the feminization of poverty. This phenomenon has been linked to the failure of development strategies and the effects of structural adjustment policies. Women have continued to be excluded from the decision-making processes and the resources for empowerment. The undervaluation and virtual invisibility of women's contribution to national economies have been a factor in reinforcing the low status of women. It is also now evident that current development policies, including structural adjustment programmes, have had a strong negative effect on women. The absence of women from the planning processes of development, both in terms of their direct participation and in the consideration of their special needs and concerns, has hindered any improvement in the relative position of women, who represent a growing majority of the

world's poor. For development to be sustainable INSTRAW advocates that women must be included in all levels of planning.

6. Two clusters of programmes were identified for the 1992-1993 biennium: (a) mainstreaming gender in development strategies; and (b) making women visible through the valuation of women's contribution to socio-economic development.

7. Both programme clusters are important steps towards empowering women and towards combatting the trend to the feminization of poverty. They are designed to address the concerns of women in both urban and rural areas and to provide for the phased build-up of knowledge. They are concentrated on those issues which are seen as problematic or intransigent. The Institute believes that if women are to play a key role in the fight for sustainable development these are the issues that must be resolved.

## III. HIGHLIGHTS OF INSTITUTE PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

8. Within the Institute's policy of mainstreaming gender in development strategies, particular attention was given to women, environment and sustainable development, gender training for the empowerment of women and women in communications.

### A. Women, environment and sustainable development

9. Since 1982 INSTRAW has shown concern for environmental issues as evidenced by the priority the Institute has accorded to programmes related to women, water supply and sanitation and new and renewable sources of energy. The sectoral focus of these programmes was a timely response to the critical problems that developing countries were facing in satisfying their energy and water needs. INSTRAW attempted to bring women's roles and needs into the mainstream activities of the national actions being undertaken by governments. Building on these two sectoral programmes and realizing the need for broadening their scope, INSTRAW in 1990 launched a new programme on women, environment and sustainable development.

10. As a starting-point the Institute undertook research to analyse how the issue of women, environment and sustainable development was perceived and addressed by different sectors at the global, regional and national levels. In this connection, INSTRAW prepared a study entitled Women, the Environment and Sustainable Development: Towards a Theoretical Synthesis in cooperation with the University of Utrecht and the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands. This study provides a comprehensive review of the theoretical/methodological approaches which have been used in dealing with women and the environment. It is being published by ZED Books and will be available by the third quarter of 1993.

11. As a complement to this conceptual approach, INSTRAW has carried out case studies in four countries - Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso and Tahiti - on the major environmental problems affecting women and the actions being taken at different levels to solve them. These studies will serve as a basis for the

issue of INSTRAW News devoted to women and the environment, which is forthcoming.

12. In preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, INSTRAW participated in the Global Assembly of Women and the Environment, Miami, Florida, United States of America, 1992 and the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, held in New York from 3 March to 2 April 1992. The Institute, in cooperation with a number of United Nations bodies and agencies and other organizations, focused on the central role played by women in environmental issues. These efforts resulted in the inclusion of substantive recommendations on women, environment and development in chapter 24 entitled "Global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development" as well as other relevant chapters of Agenda 21. 1/

13. Following the Conference, the challenge for INSTRAW is to contribute to strategies for sustainable development by integrating women as principal actors in environmental management and as equal partners in the development process. The Institute's work programme and future thrust responds directly to the guidelines and recommendations of the Conference. In particular it is designed to assist in the efforts to increase the proportion of women involved as decision-makers, planners, managers, scientists and technical advisers in the design, development and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development and to strengthen and empower women's bureaux, women's non-governmental organizations and women's groups in enhancing capacity-building for sustainable development.

14. A first concrete follow-up to the Conference was the organization of an interregional workshop on "The role of women in environmentally sound and sustainable development". INSTRAW, in cooperation with the Task Force on Women and Development of the former Department of Economic and Social Development of the Secretariat and in association with the State Science and Technology Commission and the All-China Women's Federation of China, organized the interregional workshop, which was held at Beijing, from 9 to 15 September 1992, with a participation of over 100.

15. The long-term objective of the workshop was to explore approaches and modalities designed to ensure environmentally sound and sustainable development, particularly in rural areas, focusing on the role and involvement of women.

16. The immediate objective of the workshop was to identify projects for financing by donors on a multilateral or bilateral basis and to facilitate the execution of replicable sustainable technical cooperation programmes. The ultimate goal was to ensure that the experience and perceptions of women are fully incorporated into the design and implementation of policies, programmes and projects related to environment and sustainable development, particularly in rural areas, and to ensure that women take part in the execution of those policies.

17. The final report, including the proceedings and project profiles resulting from this interregional workshop, has been published by the Institute for wide dissemination.

18. Given the importance of the role of women in the organization and management of sustainable water supply and sanitation programmes, the multi-media modular training package on this topic, originally prepared in 1986, was updated. This update was done in cooperation with the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization and the former Department of Economic and Social Development. This package is designed to integrate women's needs and to ensure their participation in the planning, operations and implementation of environmentally sound water supply and sanitation programmes.

19. This updated training package was used in a regional workshop for the Asia region organized by INSTRAW in cooperation with the former Department of Economic and Social Development and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which was held at Bangkok from 21 to 25 September 1992.

20. In order to ensure follow-up in the Asian region, the Institute has already adapted the modules to the local Chinese context. These materials will be translated into Chinese when additional funding can be made available. In response to requests received by the Institute preparations are under way for the holding of two sub-regional workshops in Latin American and the Caribbean region, one in English and the other in Spanish, scheduled to take place in late 1993 and early 1994 respectively.

21. The importance of mainstreaming gender into sectoral strategies cannot be over emphasized. INSTRAW has therefore been involved since 1982 in inter-agency collaboration and policy coordination in areas of water supply and sanitation and new and renewable sources of energy. This strategy now encompasses relevant aspects of women, environment and sustainable development. Consequently INSTRAW is actively involved in the work of the Inter-Secretariat Group for Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the United Nations Steering Committee on Water Supply and Sanitation and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, and the Committee on Natural Resources.

22. The Institute is convinced that more research is needed to elaborate on all aspects of women as environmental managers. More research is also needed to bring to the fore the effects of global environmental conditions on women's lives. This research, currently being planned, will form the basis of the Institute's new training packages on women and sustainable development, targeted to policy-makers, development planners, officials in charge of environment programmes and projects and representatives of non-governmental and women's organizations. The principal aim of the training packages will be to promote the integration of women's needs and their participation in environmentally sound and sustainable projects and programmes.

### B. Gender training for the empowerment of women

23. The importance of gender training that can lead to the empowerment of women is now fully acknowledged. In order to provide practical guidelines for enhancing the participation of women in decision and policy-formulation, the Institute has focused on the training on gender through the preparation of appropriate training materials and/or training programmes. For women to become

full partners in the struggle for a better world, it is not enough that they have the right; women must also have the opportunity to develop and exercise their skills and talents.

### 1. Portfolio on women in development

24. Since the submission of the Institute's previous report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, the INSTRAW Portfolio on Women in Development (WID Teaching) has been completed.

25. The portfolio format was determined in order to allow for flexibility in usage and to facilitate future updating of the information. The portfolio contains the following modules: I. The Contribution of the United Nations to Women and Gender Perspectives in Development; II. The Development of Thought on Gender and Women in Development (WID): Towards a New Paradigm; III. Gender Teaching, including The State-of-the-Art of WID Teaching in the United States, and Selected Syllabi for Gender Teaching; IV. Resources, containing guidelines for a course on Gender and Development as well as bibliographical and media references; and V. Tips on Gender Sensitivity, featuring gender sensitive teaching strategies, guidelines for research on women and a brief section on gender sensitive language.

26. Although the portfolio is based on the United States experience, the information has been enriched with an international backdrop against which women in development issues in developing countries can be researched and analysed, thereby making the portfolio relevant for developing countries. Bearing in mind the target audience in developing countries, the bibliographical section is based on, although not limited to, United Nations materials to widen the access of teaching staff to less expensive materials, to give easy availability of the material in languages other than English, and to promote the usage of United Nations research in universities.

### 2. Computer models to assist policy makers

27. In collaboration with the former Department of Economic and Social Development, specifically the Population Branch, computer models were developed to assist policy-makers in understanding the relationship between certain sectoral policies, development and changes in the status of women.

28. The idea for developing the computer models arose from prior experiences in testing a preliminary version of a WID model based on policy issues from a population perspective (fertility, education, employment, income-generation, etc.) in a rural development setting. This model had been tested at interregional and national seminars to illustrate the impact that certain population policy choices have on women. It proved to be especially useful during discussions among top level decision makers from various sectoral ministries or agencies, to increase their sensitivity to gender-related consequences of various policies and also to consider the combination of various sectoral policies in order to have the greatest impact.

29. This model was refined to include improvements in some of the parameters related to the functional relationships in the model and the extension of its application to other sectors. The WID model now has two parts: one focusing on a rural setting and one on an urban setting including the formal and informal sectors.

30. A second model covers issues of women in management by illustrating policy choices involved in advancing women in management (education, entry, promotion, family policies, etc.).

### 3. Training needs assessment in Eastern European countries in transition

31. In order to contribute towards the improvement of the economic situation of women in Eastern European countries whose economies are in transition, the Institute began work in the first phase of a long-term project entitled "Promoting women in agriculture: an exchange of experiences between East European women and American women". In keeping with the Institute's mandate, this phase entails conducting research on the situation of women in agriculture in Bulgaria and Hungary from which a training needs assessment would result.

32. Based on this assessment and subject to additional funding, the training programme will be designed to include an exchange between Bulgarian and Hungarian women and women in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin of the United States of America, which is envisaged to take place during the 1994-1995 biennium.

33. Currently a national researcher working in both Bulgaria and Hungary in close collaboration with the Institute is heading a research team in preparing the national reports and subsequent training needs assessment. Support has been received from USAID and arrangements have been made for the research team leaders from both countries to attend a USAID workshop on gender training. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has also lent its support to the project. The Institute expects to collaborate with the USDA in the forthcoming preparation of training materials.

34. INSTRAW will continue and intensify its gender training activities by producing new training strategies. An important component of this work is the systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of different strategies to ensure that programmes that are recommended are based on research. This work is designed to contribute towards the empowerment of women and to work towards sustainable development.

## C. Women and communications

35. The Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women gave priority to increasing the participation of women at all levels within the communication media to help eliminate stereotyped images and to improve women's access to information. The Strategies also emphasized the importance of alternative forms of communication for women and called on governments and others to provide financial support for such projects.

36. INSTRAW within its mandate of research and training began its work in communications and women in 1988. During the reporting period INSTRAW initiated a research project on communications in mass and alternative media in three countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region, namely Argentina, Colombia and the Dominican Republic, with specific funding from the Government of Italy. Three main outcomes are sought: first, the inclusion of more women in positions of authority and influence in the media; second, the presentation of more material of interest to women by the media; and third, a more realistic portrayal of women by the media.

37. A non-governmental organization specializing in women in each country was commissioned to undertake the task of preparing the country profiles. The research phase of the project is now nearing completion. The goal of the research was to understand the situation of women both as producers and users of mass and alternative media and to identify strategies for promoting better representation and participation of women in them. Based on the research findings, the second phase of the project will address the needs identified.

38. Mass communication was chosen because of its recognized role in information, education, entertainment and consumption processes, and because it is a privileged vehicle in terms of the potential it has to introduce, promote and accompany social change, disseminate information in the field of education and training, contribute to the elimination of prejudices and stereotypes, and accelerate the recognition and acceptance of women's contributions and responsibilities in sustainable and equitable development. Alternate media were also looked into in order to compare the kind of messages about and for women that they transmit.

39. The country profiles were discussed in national seminars together with proposals for the elaboration of communications support materials, including the identification of needed strategies. The profiles confirmed that the overall portrayal of women in media could be described, at its best, as narrow and, at its worst, as unrealistic, demeaning and damaging.

40. The major needs identified were training women in mass and alternative communication skills; exchange of communication materials; joint production of communication materials in order to maximize limited resources; and establishment of a dialogue between mass communicators, non-governmental organizations, grass-roots organizations and researchers on gender.

41. The need was recognized to link universities, research centres, government programmes and women's organizations in order to carry out inter-institutional research and training activities and to develop communication materials in the field of women, gender and development. It was important that advertising companies and the media in general be informed of the kind of image women want projected. It was equally important for the media to reflect the process of change in gender and the resulting problems and conflicts arising therefrom. It is crucial to develop communication media controlled and operated by women themselves in an effort to present information and perspectives that reflect the reality of women's lives.

42. Based on the work developed by the Institute and on the work of others in this area, INSTRAW is currently preparing a manual to sensitize media people and

opinion makers to gender issues and women's concerns. This material will be tested in two subregional workshops in 1994.

## D. Making women visible - improved statistics and indicators on women

43. The Institute's involvement in assisting in the development and improvement of gender statistics at the national, regional and international levels has been a long standing commitment. While sensitization of both data producers and users is still an obstacle for most developing countries, some have recognized and identified needs for accurate, reliable and adequate statistical data on women and men. In addition, there is an expressed need for tools and guidelines to assist in the development of national databases on women and men and the systematic compilation of available gender statistics from existing data sources.

44. The Institute, fully cognizant of the situation and of the data gaps that need to be addressed most urgently in pursuit of the goal of gaining a full understanding of women's work and economic and social contribution, has focused its relevant activities into four major groupings: (a) training and provision of advisory services; (b) contribution to the continuing work in improving international standard classification systems and relevant concepts; (c) studies to improve the use of available statistics and indicators on issues specifically relevant to women such as ageing and migration; and (d) research in order to develop new techniques and methods to adequately valuate women's paid and unpaid work.

### 1. Training and provision of advisory services

45. Under training and provision of advisory services, INSTRAW provided technical assistance to the State Ministry of Turkey in the organization of the first national workshop on statistics and indicators on women in Turkey and conducted a subregional training workshop on gender statistics for the South Pacific islands in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

46. Improving the use of available data from existing sources through strong collaborative efforts between the producers and users of data was highlighted in both training workshops. Strategies on how to establish or improve the dialogue between these two groups were drawn up. Difficulties and problems with concepts currently being applied in all data collection systems and, in particular, specific data gaps in the area of women's economic participation and contribution were addressed.

47. Similar concerns were expressed by the participants at the Japan International Cooperation Agency's seminar for senior officers of national machineries for the advancement of women (Tokyo, 9 November to 2 December 1992) at which INSTRAW was invited to give a lecture on gender statistics. The Institute's representative underlined the importance of women's unpaid work and the informal sector and the need for more detailed and reliable information on the contribution and participation of women in this sector as a prerequisite for the full integration of women in their national programme designs.

48. In collaboration with the Government of Morocco and other United Nations bodies, INSTRAW is currently organizing a subregional workshop on statistics and indicators on women for the francophone African countries, which is to be held in Rabat, Morocco, from 13 to 17 December 1993. The main objective of the workshop is to develop strategies for improving the use of available gender statistics and to address problems arising from concepts that could lead to biased reporting on and description of women in statistical indicators. Specifically, the workshop is designed to make both producers and users of data sensitive to gender issues and to the need for collecting and compiling statistics and indicators on women and development.

49. The workshop will be the first in the subregion to train officers at government level on this topic. In view of the forthcoming Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, special sessions at the workshop will be devoted to the use of gender statistics in order to help countries in their preparation of country reports for the Conference. Two representatives, a data producer and a data user, will be invited from each participating country - Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia.

### 2. Contribution to improving international standard classification systems

50. As part of the continuing collaboration between INSTRAW and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) a work session on statistics on women was organized by the two bodies and held in April 1992 in Geneva. Recommendations targeted preparation of statistical materials and publications for the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. It was recommended that the next INSTRAW/ECE joint work session be held six months prior to the Conference in order to exchange experiences on new developments and needs in the field of statistics relevant to women in countries of the ECE region.

51. The Institute's contribution to the ongoing work in improving international standard classification systems and relevant concepts resulted in its active participation at the Meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics organized by ILO from 28 January to 6 February 1993 and the Interregional Seminar on the Revision of the System of National Accounts organized by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts from 5 to 9 October 1992.

### 3. Studies to improve the use of available statistics on issues specifically relevant to women

52. In order to contribute to the emerging need for data on ageing and in response to General Assembly resolution 44/76 of 8 December 1989 on elderly women the INSTRAW/UNSTAT study entitled "The Situation of Elderly Women: Available Statistics and Indicators" was completed. In addition to giving a comprehensive review and analysis of some existing indicators on population ageing and its consequences to women, the study identifies a list of appropriate indicators for each of the broad areas of particular importance to elderly women, such as the position of elderly women in family structure and households, their contribution to the regular educational system and early childhood care,

their economic activity and labour force participation and elderly women's economic and social support.

53. In collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other United Nations bodies, INSTRAW has recently initiated a research project that attempts to develop a conceptual framework and identify statistics and indicators for analysing women's migration and its determinants and consequences to family and society. Primarily, this project was designed with a view to providing guidelines for further research and identification of policy strategies addressing the situation of women migrants and the socio-economic consequences of their moves. The project covers both internal and international migration and involves an extensive review of the different reasons that compel women to migrate.

### 4. Development of new techniques and methods to valuate women's work adequately

54. Lack of data and quantification leads to an undervaluation of the economic contribution of women. Problems are manifest both in terms of production and employment. Current data sets fail to account properly for female labour force participation and the volume and value of production carried on outside the formal market system.

55. Recognizing these problems, national and international statistical bodies and academic researchers have actively pursued the measurement and valuation of non-market activity. However, a great deal remains to be done in moving towards the integration of market and non-market activity into a set of integrated economic accounts. At its twenty-fifth session, in 1989, the Statistical Commission affirmed the great value to countries of further work in this area, particularly the need for technical reports on methods of compilation, valuation and analysis of women's contribution to development as a supplement to the System of National Accounts.

56. International debates and research studies have recently highlighted many of the conceptual and methodological problems involved in capturing and valuing non-market production and employment. Within this framework, INSTRAW in 1992 launched its long-term research project on "Measurement and valuation of unpaid contribution to social and economic development: accounting through time-use". Two types of activities have so far been carried out under this project: (a) the presentation of the theoretical framework of the project to international forums and selected experts in the field and (b) the initiation of four national case studies to review existing time-use data, evaluate the effectiveness of the methodologies applied and identify specific policy and methodological problems for the valuation of unpaid work, particularly women's work. In addition to the case-studies, a global inventory has been undertaken of official and unofficial time-use studies potentially suitable for addressing unpaid work, valuation and employment issues. Results of the case-studies and the global inventory are expected to provide applicable, cost-effective and robust time-use study techniques to capture women's work, both paid and unpaid. These techniques will be subsequently pilot-tested in the case-study countries.

57. Close collaboration with the Statistical Division of the Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Children's Fund will be maintained in carrying out the project.

## IV. THE INSTITUTE'S ADVOCACY NETWORK

58. By its nature, mandate, statute and operative principles, INSTRAW relies on networking used in innovative ways. INSTRAW implements its work through cooperative arrangements with United Nations organizations and bodies, governmental and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and women's organizations and groups. An important element in the Institute's global strategy is its network of focal points and correspondents at the national level. Cooperation with the five United Nations regional commissions as well as with other regional groupings such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is equally crucial for the outreach of the Institute's work.

59. The Institute's experience has shown that through networking it has been able to increase the scope of its operations, obtain optimum use of its limited financial resources and attain greater outreach and impact of its work. Several activities such as the organization of seminars and meetings related to its programmes have been implemented in collaboration with the Institute's focal points, regional commissions, United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and women's organizations and groups. Hence new forms of collaboration are being sought for increased interaction between INSTRAW and its network of collaborating bodies.

60. A salient feature of INSTRAW networking is the training of young scholars and researchers, within the United Nations ad hoc internship programme. The programme seeks to familiarize the incumbents with women and development issues as related to the Institute's programme of work as well as that of the United Nations system.

61. An important channel of information exchange of the Institute with its networks is INSTRAW News. The publication continues to be the Institute's principal means not only of diffusing information about the major results of INSTRAW programme activities but also of recording research trends and promoting global networking on women and development issues. It is published biannually in English, French and Spanish.

62. To ensure an efficient information flow the Institute regularly updates its computerized mailing list and rosters of institutions and experts and produces relevant public information material, including posters and flyers, that reach both the general public and the development community. This is further reinforced by regular briefings to non-governmental organizations on the work of the Institute and on invitation the preparation and presentation of substantive papers linked to the work of INSTRAW to major international and regional events organized by the non-governmental community.

63. The Institute has maintained its policy of having a public information component built into its research and training activities. Hence the Institute's public information programme not only promotes an understanding of the Institute's programme activities and its objectives but also of women and development issues in general.

64. Networking and mainstreaming have been and continue to be the main pivots of the Institute's mode of operation. It has enabled the Institute, despite its limited financial resources, to carry out its mandate in research, training and information on women and development in an innovative and multidisciplinary manner. The Institute continues in its efforts to seek new ways and strategies to strengthen its mode of operation.

## V. FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE INSTITUTE

65. INSTRAW is funded solely from voluntary contributions. Fund-raising efforts remain a crucial element in the Institute's work and continue to be a priority issue. An essential element is sustained contact with major donor Governments in order to secure the level of contributions needed by the Institute to carry out its programme. Financial stability is crucial to the Institute's ability to continue research, training and information programmes, as approved by INSTRAW Board of Trustees.

66. Since its establishment a steadily growing number of Member States from both developed and developing countries have made pledges to the Trust Fund established for the Institute, indicating the support of the Member States to the work of the Institute. So far pledges have been received from 68 Member States announced at the annual United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. In addition INSTRAW receives additional funding from both Governments and international agencies for specific projects. Voluntary contributions received for the biennium 1992-1993 amounted to US$ 3,209,422, an increase from 1990-1991 of 17 per cent.

67. Furthermore in keeping with the recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning autonomous institutes of the United Nations, INSTRAW has attained a financial reserve of 1.58 programme work years which should enable the Institute to meet any shortfall in expected pledges, thus ensuring continuity in the Institute's work.

68. The Institute wishes to express its appreciation to those Member States which have steadily supported INSTRAW by their contributions to the Trust Fund since its inception, as well as to those which have joined them more recently.

69. The need for sustained funds that would permit the Institute to carry out its mandate of independent research, the results of which would feed into policy and policy coordination on the one hand and into operational activities on the other, cannot be overlooked nor underestimated. If the Institute is to continue to be effective in its mandate of research, training and information on issues related to women and development, it is crucial that the financial commitment of the Member States to the Trust Fund of the Institute be ensured.

## VI. CONCLUSION

70. It is now acknowledged that without the full participation of women sustainable development cannot be achieved. Agenda 21 places special emphasis on respect for gender considerations in all policies, programmes and activities related to development and environment and recognizes women's vital role in promoting sustainable development. The Institute along with the Division for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women are the only entities within the United Nations system committed through their constitutions solely to the integration of women in development and thus to the advancement of women. Since 1975 some breakthroughs have been achieved but there is still much to be done. Research results are needed that can guide both policy making and project implementation. New research is needed to throw light on issues and emerging areas of concern to women. Through its experience and expertise gained, the Institute on the eve of the Fourth World Conference on Women intends to make every effort to contribute to the fruition of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies thus ensuring women's rightful place in society.

## Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (vol. I)), resolution I, annex II.

ANNEX

Publications and public information material printed by INSTRAW through in-house printing facilities, 1992-1993

How to Improve Banking for Rural Women: Guidelines for Action. Report of an interregional seminar held in Nicosia, Cyprus, 19-30 November 1990. 22 p. (E)

Report of the Consultative Meeting on Improving Concepts and Methods for Statistics and Indicators on the Situation of Elderly Women. New York, 28-30 May 1991. 13 p. (E)

The Women in Development Dimension in Evaluation Methodologies. Report of the Consultative Meeting: Evaluation Methodologies for Programmes and Projects on WID, New York. 117 p. (E)

Rapport du seminaire national de formation à l'utilisation des statistiques sur la place et le rôle des femmes dans le secteur informel. Brazzaville, Congo, 19-24 August 1991. 101 p. (F)

Rapport de l'atelier régional sur les méthodes de la collecte et l'analyse des statistiques concernant l'activité des femmes dans le secteur informel et leur contribution au produit national. Burkina Faso, 8-12 October 1990. 76 p. (F)

Rapport sur le seminaire national de formation à la production et à l'utilisation des statistiques sur la place et le role des femmes dans le secteur informel. Burkina Faso, 6-20 August 1991. 160 p. (F)

Interregional Workshop on the Role of Women in Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, volume I: Proceedings of the Workshop. Beijing, China, 9-15 September 1992. 429 p. (E)

Interregional Workshop on the Role of Women in Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, volume II: Project Profiles. Beijing, China, 9-15 September 1992. 319 p. (E)

Informe del Seminario Taller Nacional sobra la Participación de la Mujer Rural en el Desarrollo. Santiago, Dominican Republic, 8-9 December 1992. 53 p. (

Report of the meeting on Macro-Economic Policy Analysis of Women's Participation in the Informal Sector. Rome, 18-22 March 1991. 44 p. (E)

INSTRAW News, No. 16, Winter 1991, Informal Sector. 40 p. (F)

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